

To: JRM, [REDACTED]
Cc: Anderson, Matthew [REDACTED]
From: Michel, Frederic
Sent: Mon 15/11/2010 11:32:42 AM
Subject: Hunt meeting - urgent

Jeremy tried to call you. He has received very strong legal advice not to meet us today as the current process is treated as a judicial one (not a policy one) and any meeting could be referred to and jeopardize the entire process. Jeremy is very frustrated about it but the Permanent Secretary has now also been involved.

My advice would be not to meet him today as it would be counter-productive for everyone, but you could have a chat with him on his mobile which is completely fine, and I will liaise with his team privately as well. Let's discuss

Fred

Fred

Frederic Michel

Director, Public Affairs, Europe

News Corporation

tel: [REDACTED]

mob: [REDACTED]

To: JRM, [REDACTED]
 Cc: Anderson, Matthew [REDACTED]
 From: Michel, Frederic
 Sent: Thur 02/12/2010 5:26:24 PM
 Subject: No10 meetings today

Some quick feedback from my conversations in No10 today separately with both Clegg's and DC's advisers

Nick's adviser

- Presentation of News Corp and businesses
- detailed debrief on the current Ofcom process
- Debrief on the state of plurality in the UK: strong amazement of the small audience share of Sky News and the 4/1000 consumer impact
- Honest discussion on the importance for us of getting Labour on board/comfortable with the transaction as it will influence Cable a lot
- he will insist on the need for Vince to meet with us once Ofcom report published
- need to support Nick when he makes announcement on copyright which goes against his election promise – timing end January – will be very tough for him with youth voters again

David's adviser

- Very frank exchange on the recent speech which praised Google and fair-use – took him through the Stationers' speech
- Outline of the aims of the IP review to be led by Hargreaves and our intention to be very pro-active on it
- Proposition by Steve Hilton to help them campaign on the different elements of their Big Society Programme [Sky programming team very involved already] . Will debrief separately on this item
- On Sky transaction: recognised need to look at it only from a plurality point of view

COPY 1

To: Brooks, Rebekah [REDACTED] JRM [REDACTED]
Cc: Anderson, Matthew [REDACTED] Palker, [REDACTED]
Jeff [REDACTED] Appella, Andrea [REDACTED]
From: Michel, Frederic
Sent: Tue 14/12/2010 11:59:54 AM
Subject: Re: Hunt - confidential

Just saw Don Foster, MP, Libdems DCMS spokesman and close to Cable for a broad update. Some important feedback.
Will debrief

Frederic Michel
Director, Public Affairs, Europe
News Corporation
tel: [REDACTED]
mob: [REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: Brooks, Rebekah
Sent: Tuesday, December 14, 2010 10:44 AM
To: Michel, Frederic; JRM
Cc: Anderson, Matthew; Palker, Jeff; Appella, Andrea
Subject: RE: Hunt - confidential

Same from GO - total bafflement at response.

-----Original Message-----

From: Michel, Frederic
Sent: 14 December 2010 10:41
To: JRM
Cc: Anderson, Matthew; Palker, Jeff; Appella, Andrea; Brooks, Rebekah
Subject: Hunt - confidential

Very good debrief with Hunt on the Issues letter. He is pretty amazed by its findings, methodology and clear bias.

He very much shares our views on it.
We are going to try to find a way for you to meet with him one/one before Xmas.

Fred
Frédéric Michel
Director, Public Affairs, Europe
News Corporation
tel: [REDACTED]
mob: [REDACTED]

COPY 1

To: JRM, [REDACTED]; Anderson, Matthew, [REDACTED]; Palker,
Jeff, [REDACTED]; Appella, Andrea, [REDACTED]
From: Michel, Frederic
Sent: Fri 24/12/2010 5:25:13 PM
Subject: Hunt - confidential

Just spoke to JH.

Said he was very happy for me to be the point of contact with him/Adam on behalf of JRM going forward. Very important to avoid giving the "anti" any opportunity to attack the fairness of the process and fine to liaise at that political level, while also DCMS/NWS legal teams are in touch.

Importantly, Jeremy is now away til the 5th January and won't see the Ofcom report til then.

Fred

Frederic Michel

Director, Public Affairs, Europe

News Corporation

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

			to share with ofcom if they have been asked by oft to assist.			<i>it.</i> " [70]
04.02.11	17:27:42	FM/AS	Are you able to send me the Enders and Slaughter docs? Wd help me prepare for the public debate. Enjoy golf	17:37:00	FM/JRM	RE: CONFIDENTIAL – JH – PLEASE READ <i>"He has received enormous pressure from Enders and Slaughter/May to take into consideration their evidence into the OFT process. They both wrote documents against every possible remedy....I am trying to get the docs but it might be difficult...."</i> [71]
	17:30:41	AS/FM	I haven't actually got them at the moment. Officials just told me about them. Don't mention them to anyone like oft etc. If we need them I'll show you.			
09.02.11	14:13:01	AS/FM	Take your stab proof vest with you! Am hoping for an update later on process so will let you know if anything new.	14:26:44	FM/JRM	Subject: JH CONFIDENTIAL <i>"JH is trying to get further update by end of today on process, and hopefully also on OFT's feedback"</i> [75]
15.02.11	21:47:19	FM/AS	Ignore my voicemail. Just understood the Oft issue . I think we are in good place	22:35:21	FM/AA/JRM	Subject: Re: Confidential: Letter from Jeremy Hunt to James Murdoch <i>"On 10 years term, after an exchange with Jeff, I asked JH tonight. He confirmed it was not an issue but was happy to clarify in the morning..."</i> [80]
	21:50:21	AS/FM	Ofcom answer the ten year issue. Let's chat tomorrow for clarification though.			
	22:01:39	FM/AS	We need to talk properly tomorrow through all the different areas to plan. Looks like we are nearly there!			

To: Anderson, Matthew [REDACTED]; Palker, Jeffrey (Newscorp)[];
 Appella, Andrea [REDACTED]
From: Michel, Frederic
Sent: Sun 23/01/2011 8:59:44 AM
Subject: update - confidential

He still wants to stick to the following plan:

- Monday: Receive further details on UIL - but no need to meet at this stage
- Tuesday: Publication of Ofcom report; our submission and announcement that he has received UIL proposal and is looking into it
- Ask OFT to work with us on the UIL
- Put the UIL to Ofcom for advice. He said he would be able to send it to them with a specific question to limit their ability to challenge it [i.e., " your report demonstrates that Sky News is the core concern; I would like you to consider the following UIL which addresses all of these issues]. He said Ofcom would not be able to create major obstacles in that way.
- Then in 2 weeks time, he announces he is minded to refer but has received a very substantial UIL and would like to consult publicly
- He predicts it should all be done by mid-Feb.

His view is that once he announces publicly he has a strong UIL, it's almost game over for the opposition.

He understands fully our concerns/fears regarding the publication of the report and the consultation of Ofcom in the process; but he wants us to take the heat, with him, in the next 2 weeks.

He very specifically said that he was keen to get to the same outcome and wanted JRM to understand he needs to build some political cover on the process.

If he were to follow our Option 1 and not provide any details on the Ofcom report, he would be accused of putting a deal together with us behind closed doors and it would get in a much more difficult place. The more this gets out now, the better it will be as the opposition will lose arguments. This week's events do not give him much choice.

He said we would get there at the end and he shared our objectives.

Finally, he asked us to stick with him in the coming weeks, plan the upcoming Tuesday's publication and the debate which will unfold.

Fred.

Frederic Michel
 Director, Public Affairs, Europe
 News Corporation

[REDACTED]

To: JRM, [REDACTED]
Cc: Anderson, Matthew, [REDACTED], Palker,
Jeff, [REDACTED], Appella, Andrea, [REDACTED], Macandrew,
Alice, [REDACTED]
From: Michel, Frederic
Sent: Mon 24/01/2011 6:00:58 PM
Subject: RE: CONFIDENTIAL - JH STATEMENT

More details on the statement:

At the end, JH will indicate that if "it produces a UIL which I believe will prevent the merger from doing adverse effects and which I propose to accept, then I will start the formal consultation which will last 15 days"

From: Michel, Frederic
Sent: 24 January 2011 15:21
To: JRM
Cc: Anderson, Matthew; Palker, Jeff; Appella, Andrea; Macandrew, Alice
Subject: CONFIDENTIAL - JH STATEMENT

Managed to get some infos on the plans for tomorrow [although absolutely illegal..>!]

- Press statement at 7.30am and Parliament statement at 9.30am [identical]
- Lots of legal issues around the statement so he has tried to get a version which helps us by qualifying the threats identified by Ofcom
- He will thus confirm that Ofcom recommended him to refer.
- JH will announce that "he is minded that maybe the case that a merger may operate against the public interest and it's in his own right that *he wishes to look at*

24.02.11	08:25:54	AS/FM	They said this was a promising basis from which to work in their advice to JH. Not quite complete acceptance so I guess that's why they are looking for confirmation on some things .	09:21:53	FM/JRM/JP/MA	Subject JH confidential <i>"Just observed that Ofcom in their letter to him said our proposal was a promising basis from which to work but not quite complete acceptances. Hence why they're looking for confirmation on some things before giving final advice...and will call back later this morning."</i> [93]
	09:06:46	FM/AS	Some things? Have you seen the list??? Let me know JH's view before 11am when I speak to James please. Important call	11:25:00	FM/JRM	Subject: Re:JH confidential <i>"JH just said, after a long talk, he will still go with what Ofcom recommends..."</i> [95]
	10:13:59	AS/FM	We will still go with whatever ofcom recommends.	10:50:08	FM/JRM	Subject: Re: JH confidential <i>"JH just texted that he can't interfere with the process but can give us more time to sort things out. He can't engage with substance whilst Ofcom is working with us."</i> [94]
	10:43:05	AS/FM	We can't interfere with the process really. We can give more time but not deal with substance whilst they are working with you.			
03.03.11	10:43:16	AS/FM	Oral statement confirmed for 1500. I am actually off to Rome on a 1655 flight so may not be around. I feel my work is nearly done.	10:49:11	FM/JRM	Subject: Quick update JH and co <i>"Formal statement by JH is scheduled for 15:00. Just been confirmed."</i> [104]
23.03.11	20:04:49	FM/AS	When are you seeing media coalition? I am finalising private memo for you. Good	20:47:30	FM/JRM/MA/JP/AA	Subject: JH- confidential <i>"JH will be meeting media coalition tomorrow. I ran him</i>

To: 'Adam Smith'
From: Michel, Frederic
Sent: Tue 07/06/2011 4:32:28 PM
Subject: RE: Ed Vaizey

I tend to think that he could see us on very specific policy items. We're still involved in the media agenda even during the Sky deal.

It's a very punitive decision....I feel victimised J

For example, I am working on our response for the open letter and it would have been great to discuss it with you before finalising it at some stage before end of June. Possible?

By the way, does that mean you and Jeremy will not be coming to Take That on the 4th July?

Fred.

From: Adam Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 June 2011 17:29
To: Michel, Frederic
Subject: Re: Ed Vaizey

you cannot seriously think that Ed meeting with News Corp whilst the deal is going on wouldn't be an issue.

On Tue, Jun 7, 2011 at 5:27 PM, Michel, Frederic [REDACTED] > wrote:

It's not obvious. He is not in charge at all of the Sky deal . That can't be the reason

I can see why Jeremy is not coming to the summer party....

COPY 1

To: James Murdoch[]
 Cc: amacandrew[REDACTED] Anderson, Matthew [REDACTED] Palker,
 Jeffrey (Newscorp)[REDACTED] Andrea Appella (Newscorp) [REDACTED]
 From: Michel, Frederic
 Sent: Thur 07/07/2011 6:01:44 PM
 Subject: JH - CONFIDENTIAL - please read

Latest on Rubicon:

- Was not discussed at the No10 meeting that Hunt had with the PM – was discussing the two enquiries [“police” one led by a judge; and “media practices” one not with a judge and led by DCMS]
- Some of the submissions are from the US and a lot are petitions – the law forces DCMS staff to read each of them
- Given there are 100,000, it will take longer than it took for 40,000 but not 3 months.
- Doesn't believe there will be
- Important to dispel idea that he might send it to CoCo or put a pause in the process: it would be irrelevant as CoCo would run the same media plurality test as Ofcom – key message
- The closure of NoW does not affect JH decision and if anything help the media plurality issue by weakening our voice
- The Cabinet divisions reported in the press are much more to do with the hacking saga rather than the deal itself
- Feels that both BBC and Guardian have been extremely helpful in reporting accurately that he has no room in his decision